

### RECOGNIZING THE FOOD BANK OF EASTERN MICHIGAN

(Mr. KILDEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today I want to recognize the Food Bank of Eastern Michigan, an incredible non-profit organization in my hometown of Flint that is working to end hunger in the communities across my district. Each year, the food bank distributes more than 28 million pounds of food through 22 counties.

In addition to providing that assistance, the food bank is doing important work to study poverty in America. It is clear through their work that the way we measure poverty in America doesn't give us the full picture. The way we look at poverty is incomplete.

Many families in Michigan technically are above the Federal poverty level, but those families struggle to meet their basic needs, like a roof over their head, enough food on the table, and paying their utility bills.

Congress has to do more to end poverty in this country. Instead of cutting childcare programs, healthcare, and ending tax incentives like the Earned Income Tax Credit, let's help families be self-sufficient. Let's focus on creating good jobs, raising their wages, supporting families with income that allows them to not focus just on the basic needs.

This is something that we have to do. We are the richest country on the planet. We ought to be able to end poverty in America.

### CONGRATULATING THE LANCASTER CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TEAM

(Mr. SMUCKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Lancaster Catholic High School baseball team today.

The Crusaders baseball team recently claimed its first baseball championship in school history. After a remarkable 20-5 season, the Crusaders won the Lancaster-Lebanon Section 4 and District 3 titles, setting themselves up for a run at the State championship.

Sure enough, the Crusaders defeated South Side 5-1 in the PIAA 3A Championship.

In addition to the Crusaders' great offense, the highlight of the game was senior Dillon Marsh's dominating pitching performance. Marsh, who has committed to playing at the University of Kentucky next year, pitched a complete game, striking out 11 batters without allowing a single walk.

This game continued his excellent postseason performance, during which he surpassed the 100 strikeout mark for the season and threw a no-hit shutout in the State semifinals.

In summarizing his victory and the celebration with his teammates, Marsh simply stated: "It was just pure happiness."

Congratulations to the Lancaster Crusaders baseball team, the coaches, the families, and everyone at the school and in the community who supported this team along the way.

### DEFEND PROTECTION OF PREEXISTING CONDITIONS

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, from his very first day in office, President Trump has worked to sabotage and repeal the Affordable Care Act.

Despite being unable to pass a repeal bill, President Trump hasn't stopped working to make it harder for people with preexisting conditions to afford coverage. Last week, HHS announced that it will allow the sale of short-term junk insurance plans that don't provide essential coverage and exclude people with preexisting conditions. Meanwhile, Attorney General Jeff Sessions argues that such protections are unconstitutional.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to understand why the President, who promised wonderful healthcare for all, is so committed to attacking the most popular parts of the Affordable Care Act.

Constance, a constituent from my district, wrote, back during the repeal debate, that: "The ACA saved my life, as I would not be able to afford my healthcare without it."

Mr. Speaker, we in Congress need to be doing more to protect people like Constance and all of those who have been diagnosed with a preexisting condition.

We need to be doing more, not less

### AGENT ORANGE DISABILITY BENEFITS FOR BLUE WATER NAVY VIETNAM VETERANS

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend my colleagues in this House for passing H.R. 299, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act. The legislation makes 90,000 Vietnam sea-service veterans eligible for disability pay for health issues that could possibly have been caused by Agent Orange exposure.

The truth is, we don't know for sure how many have been exposed to Agent Orange, but we owe them the benefit of the doubt that we give to Vietnam servicemembers who have served on land as well.

It is a long time coming. They pleaded with us for years to pay attention to Agent Orange, and it has been obscured for a long time. It is well-documented that some of these soldiers weren't treated very well when they returned home to this country. They finally are going to receive the respect and the care they deserve.

I want to thank our chairman of the Veterans' Affairs Committee, Dr. Phil Roe, as well as the author of this legis-

lation, my California colleague, DAVID VALADAO, for their tireless work on making this happen.

Countless veterans have developed health issues as a result of Agent Orange exposure, and it is about time we set this right for our blue water Navy vets who are eligible for these benefits that they need and their families pleaded for.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad we finally got this done for them.

### RECOGNIZING LAKOTA TIMOTHY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding student from Coudersport, Pennsylvania, who received an award from the Potter County Conservation District for being an outstanding FFA student.

Miss Lakota Timothy is this year's recipient of the Henry Staiger Agriculture Education and FFA Award. Henry was an agriculture teacher for many years in Potter County and was instrumental in developing the conservation district.

Each year, this award goes to the most involved and outstanding Spud Growers FFA student from Coudersport High School.

Lakota is the daughter of Scott and Wendy Timothy of Sweden Valley. Throughout her FFA career, she has been involved in numerous leadership and development events, including: forest evaluation, land evaluation, environmental and natural resources, dairy evaluation, livestock evaluation, and public speaking.

She also has presented at Kindergarten Ag Day and other community events where she teaches elementary students about various agricultural topics.

Mr. Speaker, Lakota has been an excellent role model to both her peers and younger students who are interested in agriculture.

I congratulate her on this outstanding achievement and wish her the best of luck in the future.

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### OPIOID EPIDEMIC

(Mr. WESTERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, the opioid epidemic is taking lives at a staggering rate. In my home State of Arkansas—that has a relatively small population—more than 400 people lost their lives directly attributable to opioids in 2016, and the numbers continue to climb.

Congress has the power to prevent a major source of illegal opioids. Plain